

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating one or more candidates for a structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in a structured document, the method comprising the steps of:

5 preparing document logical structure information about the structured document and conditions and indexes for display for giving selection criteria to a user;

10 accepting said structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in said structured document specified by the user, wherein said structure pattern is comprised of one or more items;

15 determining an item to be edited among the one or more items;

20 generating one or more structure pattern candidates by replacing said item to be edited with items in different expressions based on said document logical structure information; and

15 rearranging said generated one or more structure pattern candidates based on said condition and index for display to generate a structure pattern candidate list.

20 2. The method for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 1, wherein the step of determining an item to be edited comprises the steps of accepting an item specified by the user as desired to be edited for said structure pattern and determining the item desired to be edited as the item to be edited.

25 3. The method for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 1, wherein said condition and index for display comprises an index showing inclusion relationships between the element sets pointed to by said generated one or more

structure pattern candidates and the element set pointed to by said structure pattern specified by the user in said structured document.

4. The method for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 1, wherein said condition and index for display comprises a countable characteristic quantity showing the characteristic of said generated one or more structure pattern candidates.

5 5. The method for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 1, wherein the step of preparing said document logical structure information comprises the step of preparing at least one of said structured document and a document type definition of the structured document.

10 6. A system for generating one or more candidates for a structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in a structured document, the system comprising:

a storage for storing document logical structure information about the structured document and a condition and index for display for giving selection criteria to a user;

15 means for accepting said structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in said structured document specified by the user, wherein said structure pattern is comprised of one or more items;

means for determining an item to be edited among the one or more items;

20 means for generating one or more structure pattern candidates by replacing said item to be edited with items in different expressions based on said document logical structure information; and

means for rearranging said generated one or more structure pattern candidates based on said condition and index for display to generate a structure pattern candidate list.

7. A system for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 6, wherein said means for determining an item to be edited comprises means for accepting items specified by the user as desired to be edited for said structure pattern, and means for determining the item desired to be edited as the item to be edited.

5 8. The system for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 6, wherein said condition and index for display comprises an index showing inclusion relationships between the element set pointed to by said generated structure pattern candidates and the element set pointed to by said structure pattern specified by the user in said structured document.

10 9. The system for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 6, wherein said condition and index for display comprises a countable characteristic quantity showing the characteristic of said generated structure pattern candidates.

15 10. The system for generating one or more structure pattern candidates according to Claim 6, wherein said storage stores at least one of said structured document and a document type definition of the structured document as said document logical structure information.

20 11. A program for generating one or more candidates for a structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in a structured document; the program causing a computer to perform the functions of:

 preparing document logical structure information about the structured document and a condition and index for display for giving selection criteria to a user;

- accepting said structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in said structured document specified by the user, wherein said structure pattern is comprised of one or more items;
- 5 determining an item to be edited among the one or more items;
- generating one or more structure pattern candidates by replacing said item to be edited with items in different expressions based on said document logical structure information; and
- rearranging said generated one or more structure pattern candidates based on said condition and index for display to generate a structure pattern candidate list.
- 10 12. A method for generating one or more candidates for an XPath pointing to an element or an element set in an XML document, the method comprising the steps of:
- preparing document logical structure information about the XML document and a condition and index for display for giving selection criteria to a user;
- 15 accepting said XPath pointing to an element or an element set in said XML document specified by the user, wherein said XPath is comprised of one or more location steps;
- determining a location step to be edited among the one or more location steps;
- generating XPath candidates by replacing said determined location step with location steps in different expressions based on said document logical structure information; and
- 20 arranging said generated one or more XPath candidates based on said condition and index for display to generate an XPath candidate list.
13. Apparatus for generating one or more candidates for a structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in a structured document, the apparatus comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor coupled to the memory and operative to: (i) prepare document logical structure information about the structured document and conditions and indexes for display for giving selection criteria to a user; (ii) accept said structure pattern pointing to an element or an element set in said structured document specified by the user, wherein said structure pattern is comprised of one or more items; (iii) determine an item to be edited among the one or more items; (iv) generate one or more structure pattern candidates by replacing said item to be edited with items in different expressions based on said document logical structure information; and (v) rearrange said generated one or more structure pattern candidates based on said condition and index for display to generate a structure pattern candidate list.